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OF

THE ANHALT GOSPELS

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TUESDAY, THE 31ST OF MAY.

1927.

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CATALOGUE
OF
THE ANHALT GOSPELS

*A MAGNIFICENT TENTH CENTURY
MANUSCRIPT,*

The Property of a Collector.

WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION
BY MESSRS.

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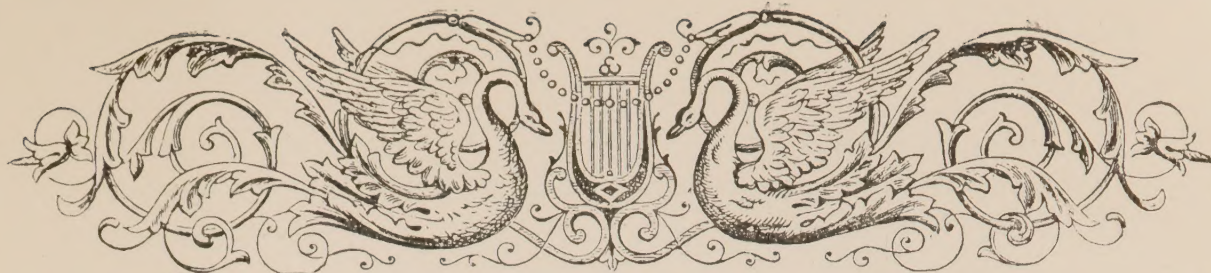
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CATALOGUE
OF
THE ANHALT GOSPELS,
The Property of a Collector.

Tuesday, May 31st, 1927.

FOLIO.



VANGELIA LATINA. A MAGNIFICENT
TENTH CENTURY MANUSCRIPT ON
VELLUM, WRITTEN IN SAXONY OR THURINGIA IN
A BEAUTIFUL CAROLINGIAN MINUSCULE HAND *on* 128
*leaves, 27 lines, headings in uncials in red, green
and burnished gold. [Begins on folio 1 verso, in uncials in gold,
red and green within a rectangular frame of red and blue enclosed
by gold fillets outlined in red with interlaced lozenge and quatrefoil
of gold and silver with vari-coloured grounds at the corners]*
BEATISSIMO PAPAE DAMASO HIERONIMVS NOVVM OPVS ME
FACERE COGIS.

[On folio 9 in uncials in white on a purple ground.] Incipit
Nymervs Sev Canones In Qvattvor Evangeliorvm.

The Eusebian Canons follow on 14 pages within columnar pillars supporting double-arches or other architectural decoration within which the headings are written in gold uncials, sometimes on a purple ground. THE DECORATION OF THE PAGES CONTAINING THE CANONS IS VERY FINE, the columns being in some cases coloured to resemble marble, in others ornamented to a diaper design or with plain bars of colouring and generally within gold fillets. The architectural decoration at the top is in some cases extended to little towers or other detail. SEVERAL OF THESE PAGES HAVE VERY FINE MARGINAL DRAWINGS, *e.g. on f. 10B*: Two armed men, one with spear and buckler, one with sword and buckler, below each a lion. *On f. 11A*: A man struggling with a serpent, below him a dragon breathing fire; a man blowing a horn [*Pl. I*]. *On f. 14B and 15A*: Birds and monsters. *On f. 15B and 16A*: Naked men shooting with bow and arrow at a peacock. *On f. 13B and 14A* is a half-length figure of Christ within a mandorla.

[*On f. 16B in white uncials on a purple ground*] Explicivnt
Canones Qvatvor Evangeliorvm.

[*On f. 17B in purple uncials within a line frame*] Initivm
Sœi Evangelii scdm Matheṽm

[*On f. 17B*] AN EXCEEDINGLY FINE FULL-PAGE MINIATURE OF S. MATTHEW WRITING HIS GOSPEL (243 mm. by 167 mm.). The Saint is represented in a white under-robe with a purple upper-robe; purple hair and beard; blue background. The miniature is within a rectangular frame of narrow coloured compartments within gold fillets.

[*On f. 18A*] A MAGNIFICENT INITIAL WORD "LIBER" OCCUPYING THE WHOLE PAGE, painted in gold and colours on a blue ground within a rectangular frame with the emblems of the evangelists at the corners (240 mm. by 162 mm.). THE INITIAL "L" IS A BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED LETTER (175 mm.) of gold and diaper work with interlacing gold strap-work ending in grotesque heads. The "I" (95 mm.) is also a beautiful letter, simpler in design, of gold strap-work, the ground of light mauve, red, white, yellow and blue. The remaining three letters are plain uncials in gold. [*Pl. II.*]

THE TWO FOLLOWING PAGES (ff. 18B-19A) CONTAINING MATT. I, 1-16, ARE OF THE UTMOST SPLENDOUR, BEING BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN IN UNCIALS IN GOLD ON A PURPLE GROUND within rectangular borders outlined in gold with interlacings in silver ending in snake heads. [Pl. III.]

On ff. 40B, 66B and 98B ARE MAGNIFICENT FULL-PAGE MINIATURES OF THE OTHER THREE EVANGELISTS WITHIN FRAMES—S. MARK (232 mm. by 158 mm.) in a white under-robe and upper-robe of grey-green with yellow relief, writing his Gospel on a roll of gold—S. LUKE (242 mm. by 165 mm.) enthroned like an emperor, his feet set on the terrestrial globe, holding in his right hand an orb wrapped in his cloak and in his left a palm-branch; this is a very curious and interesting feature of the manuscript: we have not been able to discover another early miniature of an Evangelist with this attribute—S. JOHN (240 mm. by 160 mm.) writing his book. [Pl. IV.] ON THE PAGES OPPOSITE THEM ARE BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED INITIALS IN GOLD AND COLOURS ON A PURPLE GROUND WITHIN FRAMES OCCUPYING THE FULL PAGE SIMILIA TO THE PAGE AT THE BEGINNING OF MATTHEW ALREADY DESCRIBED.

The first and last leaf are wormed and the margin of two or three leaves at beginning and end are also wormed. A few leaves—probably none decorated—are missing (Matt. xiv, 27-xxvi, 54; Luke iv, 40-ix, 29; John xi, 38-xii, 16; xvi, 7-xvii, 7; xviii, 15-end of John, and beginning of Table of the Pericopes). OTHERWISE THE MANUSCRIPT IS IN VERY FINE CONDITION WITH WIDE MARGINS.

Bound in the original wooden boards, on the upper cover a lozenge-shaped recess. The lower cover is decorated with a gilt copper-plate engraved with a representation of the Crucifixion with the Virgin and S. John, emblematic figures of the sun and moon above. The border of floral scroll-work enclosing grotesque animals and birds, a mask at the top (the background of the plate cut out). The border defective in places. The back missing.

(364 mm. by 260 mm.) GERMAN, X CENT.

** NO SUCH MAGNIFICENT EARLY MANUSCRIPT HAS COME INTO THE MARKET FOR VERY MANY YEARS. THE FOUR FULL-PAGE MINIATURES OF THE EVANGELISTS ARE SPLENDID SPECIMENS OF EARLY GERMAN MINIATURE ART. Some authorities trace in them the influence of the Winchester School, particularly in the treatment of the drapery. The preference shown by the illuminator for light-coloured hair, beard and eyes may be compared with contemporary specimens of English book decoration: also the circular silver bands on ff. 18B and 19A [*Pl. III*] ending in leaves and snake heads which are comparable with English gospels of the IX Century, *e. g.* Warner, III, Eg. MS. 768. Others see more definitely the influence of the Rheims-St. Denis School.

This manuscript comes from the library of the Dukes of Anhalt-Dessau, in whose possession it has been since before the Sixteenth Century.



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B. FOREIGN.

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Gazette de l'Hotel Drouot (Paris).

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